



Minutes of the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Meeting

**Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 203
320 S. Main St.
Jefferson, WI 53549**

Monday, August 12, 2013, 12:30 pm

Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chairperson), Amy Rinard (Vice-Chairperson), Mariah Hadler (Secretary), Steve Nass and Blane Poulson.

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Burlingham at 12:31 pm.
2. Roll Call
Commission members present included Hadler, Burlingham, Nass and Rinard. Poulson was absent. County staff present was Gerry Kokkonen (Land and Water Conservation Department), Philip Ristow (Corporation Counsel) and Michelle Staff (Zoning Department).
3. Certification of Compliance With Open Meetings Law Requirements
Burlingham and Staff verified that the meeting was being held in compliance with open meetings law requirements.
4. Review of Agenda
No changes were proposed to the agenda.
5. Public Comment
No public comment.
6. Communications
None
7. Review & Approval of the July 8, 2013 Minutes
Motion made by Nass, seconded by Rinard to approve the July 8, 2013 minutes.
Motion carried on a voice vote with no objection.
8. Discussion on interest forms received for the PACE program
 - a. Roger Lehmann
There is nothing new to report.
 - b. Clifford Haberman
There is nothing to report.
9. Discussion and Possible Action on 2011 PACE Applications
Burlingham stated that Neupert's second appraisal has been approved. The Commission has to touch base with NRCS to see if the hazards plan has been approved by NRCS. Bill Berry from the American Land Trust will be meeting with the new NRCS Secretary to relate the amount of time it is taking the Federal government to approve easements. It was noted that Wilke is ready for

construction on his sediment basin. Burlingham stated that a new appraisal would not be ordered until that work is completed.

10. Discussion on accepting easements without any farmland and/or the landowner does not want to farm property.
Burlingham stated that there was a landowner interested in donating an easement to the Commission but they did not want the property to be farmed. It was commented that this would not reflect the purpose of this Commission to protect farmland. There was a consensus that the Commission would not accept any easement without farmland.
11. Jefferson County LWCD update on Baseline Documentation for easements
Kokkonen stated that Burlingham's baseline report is completed and needs to be signed. The Commission thanked Kokkonen for this work on these baseline reports.
12. Discussion on Possible Funding Sources for the PACE Program
Molinaro stated that the request for \$50,000 was not put in the budget because Molinaro had to show no increase in his budget but it was included with two other requests. Molinaro suggested that the Commission be present at the Finance Committee meetings to support the proposal.
13. Discussion on possible farmers' market events, County Fair and summer event at the Lea farm
It was noted that the farmers' markets have been working well; September 6 and 7 Amy will be running the stand. It was discussed that the Commission should partner with other organizations to apply for additional grants or monetary support. It was discussed whether the Commission would like to go to the Lake Mills Farmers' Market. Rinard and Burlingham said they would be willing to schedule a time, either August 28th or sometime in September. The discussion turned to the details of the October 5th Preservation Celebration event at Lea's farm. Items of discussion were parking, the band, UW-Extension presence, porta potties, signs to direct people, 4-H help, food, Fling Farmers, news releases and media such as WFAW. There will be more discussion on this at the September meeting.
14. Future Meeting Dates
All meeting dates were acceptable to the Commission members.
15. Suggestions for the Next Agenda
None
16. Adjourn
Motion by Nass, seconded by Rinard to adjourn the meeting at 1:17 p.m. **Motion** carried on a voice vote with no objection.

Secretary Signature

Date

Minutes by Michelle Staff, Zoning Technician, Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department